

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for collaboratively handling an image data set, comprising the steps of:
 initiating a collaborative session on an application server connected to a network;
 joining one or more collaborative workstations on the network to the collaborative session, such that the one or more collaborative workstations and the
10 application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session; and
 providing one or more routines stored on the application server to the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of processing and analyzing an image data set.
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2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the two or more of the participating nodes located at separate respective locations.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the steps of:
20 acquiring the image data set via an imager attached to a scanner console; and
 saving the image data set on at least one of the scanner console and a PACS system, wherein one of the scanner console and the PACS system upon which the image data set is saved serves as the application server.
- 25 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more collaborative workstations comprise thin clients.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:
 providing audio communication between the two or more of the participating
30 nodes via the network.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:
processing the image data set at one or more of the participating nodes using
the one or more provided routines.

5 7. The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:
analyzing one or more images generated from the image data set at one or
more of the participating nodes using the one or more provided routines; and
reviewing the analysis of the one or more images.

10 8. The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:
attaching a multimedia object to at least one of the image data set and an
image derived from the image data set.

15 9. A computer program, provided on one or more computer readable media, for
providing a collaborative imaging system environment, comprising:
a routine for initiating a collaborative session on an application server
connected to a network;
a routine for joining one or more collaborative workstations on the network to
the collaborative session, such that the one or more collaborative workstations and the
20 application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session; and
a routine for providing one or more routines stored on the application server to
the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of
processing and analyzing an image data set.

25 10. The computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the one or more routines
comprise at least one of a processing routine and a visualization routine.

11. The computer program as recited in claim 9, further comprising:
a routine for acquiring the image data set via an imager attached to a scanner
30 console; and

a routine for saving the image data set on at least one of the scanner console and a PACS system, wherein one of the scanner console and the PACS system upon which the image data set is saved serves as the application server.

5 12. The computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the one or more collaborative workstations comprise thin clients.

13. The computer program as recited in claim 9, further comprising:
a routine for providing audio communication between the two or more of the
10 participating nodes via the network.

14. The computer program as recited in claim 13, wherein the routine for providing audio communication generates a multicast audio connection using network socket inter-process communication.

15 15. A collaborative imaging system, comprising:
one or more collaborative workstations configured to participate in a collaborative session via a network; and
an application server configured to host a collaborative session such that the
20 one or more collaborative workstations and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session, wherein the application server provides one or more routines useful for at least one of processing and analyzing an image data set to the participating nodes.

25 16. The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more collaborative workstations comprise thin clients.

17. The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the application server comprises a scanner console associated with an image acquisition
30 system.

18. The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the application server comprises a PACS system.

19. The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more routines comprise at least one of a processing routine and a visualization routine.

20. A collaborative imaging system, comprising:

means for initiating a collaborative session on an application server connected to a network;

means for joining one or more collaborative workstations on the network to the collaborative session, such that the one or more collaborative workstations and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session; and

means for providing one or more routines stored on the application server to the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of processing and analyzing an image data set.